



Department  
of Health

From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
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The Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP  
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*Dear Fiona,*

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 November on behalf of a number of your constituents about the National Stroke Strategy.

I note your constituents' concerns.

I would like to reassure you of the Government's commitment to improving the quality of stroke care, but there are no current plans to update the National Stroke Strategy. However, the NHS *Five Year Forward View* recognises that quality of care, including stroke care, can be variable and that patients' needs are changing and new treatment options are emerging. It sets out a high-level objective to address these issues.

In addition, the Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Outcomes Strategy was published in 2013 and includes many stroke-specific strategic ambitions. A CVD expert forum was established, hosted by NHS England, to co-ordinate delivery of the work which was initiated in the CVD Outcomes Strategy.

NHS England's National Clinical Director for Stroke works with the strategic clinical networks, clinical commissioning groups, voluntary agencies and individual providers to support better commissioning and provision of stroke care.

In tandem, the Department of Health is taking specific action to ensure the progress it has made on strokes continues. There is ongoing work in virtually all parts of the country to organise acute stroke care to ensure that all stroke patients, regardless of where they live or what time of the day or week they have their stroke, have access to high-quality specialist care.

I hope this reply is helpful.

*Yes*  
*JH*

**JEREMY HUNT**